Impact of decline in import on trade deficit

187. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of trade gap during 2000-2001 and the trend in the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that the decline of import has resulted in the reduction of trade gap;

(c) if so, its impact on the industry; and

(d) the measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per provisional data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, (DGCI&S), Calcutta, trade deficit, in US dollar, are as under:—

(US $ Million)

Year	Balance of Trade
1999-2000	(-) 12905
2000-01*	(-) 5739
2000-01(April-May)*	(-) 1873.84
2001-02(April-May)*	(-) 1194.51

*Provisional Figures

(b) Decline in the trade gap witnessed, during 2000-2001, is due to higher export growth achieved and the relatively lower growth of imports.

(c) and (d) While the higher export growth influences the industrial sector favourably, the impact of lower import growth is dependent on a number of factors like the import intensities of various sectors, indigenous availability of imports, government policies, rate of investment both public and private as well as foreign investment, global market conditions, etc.